

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Email: [foi@homerton.nhs.UK](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.UK)

Dear Sir or Madam,

Ref: FOI2189

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request regarding Homerton Hospital maternal deaths.

The Trust can provide the following information:

**NO.1 A breakdown of Maternal Deaths between 1st JAN 2006 to 31st Dec 2007 linked to Homerton Maternity. Had Homerton Midwives thru their Pregnancy - whether all of Pregnancy or part way thru their Pregnancy. If they died at Home what MONTH - YEAR and what HOSPITAL were they taken to, or what MONTH - YEAR were they taken to another HOSPITAL if they became ill and died there. Or what MONTH - YEAR did they die at Homerton Maternity Unit.**

No maternal deaths took place over this time period.

**NO.2 A breakdown of Maternal Deaths between 1st JAN 2008 to 31st DEC 2009 linked to Homerton Maternity. Had Homerton Midwives thru their Pregnancy - whether all of Pregnancy or part way thru their Pregnancy. If they died at Home what MONTH - YEAR and what HOSPITAL were they taken to, or what MONTH - YEAR were they taken to another HOSPITAL if they became ill and died there. Or what MONTH - YEAR did they die at Homerton Maternity Unit.**

There were two maternal deaths over this time period. One of the deceased patients was under the care of Homerton Hospital, and the year of death was 2008. Please refer to my response below in relation to the other information that you requested.

**NO.3 A breakdown of Maternal Deaths between 1st JAN 2010 & 31st DEC 2011 linked to Homerton Maternity. Had Homerton Midwives thru their Pregnancy - whether all of Pregnancy or part way thru their Pregnancy. If they died at Home what MONTH - YEAR and what HOSPITAL were they taken to, or what MONTH - YEAR were they taken to another HOSPITAL if they became ill and died there. Or what MONTH - YEAR did they die at Homerton Maternity Unit.**

There were two deaths over this time period that were under the care of other providers. Please refer to my response below in relation to the other information that you requested.

**NO.4 A breakdown of Maternal Deaths between 1st JAN 2012 & 17th NOV 2015 linked to Homerton Maternity. Had Homerton Midwives thru their Pregnancy - whether all of Pregnancy or part way thru their Pregnancy. If they died at Home what MONTH - YEAR and what HOSPITAL were they taken to, or what MONTH - YEAR were they taken to another HOSPITAL if they became ill and died there. Or what MONTH - YEAR did they die at Homerton Maternity Unit.**

There were eight maternal deaths over this time, six of which were in the care of Homerton Hospital and the remaining two, cared for by other providers. They were: January 2012, July 2013, October 2013, March 2014, April 2014, and January 2015. In relation to the other information that you requested, please refer to my response below. Please note that the month and year of death relating to those patients is already in the public domain.

In relation to questions 2, 3, and 4, the Homerton Hospital has not been able to provide you with all of the information requested because of its duty of confidentiality to the deceased patients and has therefore engaged section 41(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 41(1) of the Fol Act states that information is exempt information if:

- (a) it was obtained by the public authority from any other person (including another public authority), and
- (b) the disclosure of the information to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.

Following Decision Notices of the Information Commissioner's Office, it has been established that even though the person to whom the information relates has died, action for a breach of confidence could be taken by the personal representative of that person, and therefore the exemption continues to apply. In determining whether disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence, it is not necessary to establish that, as a matter of fact, the deceased person has a personal representative who would take action.

If you have any queries about this response or would like us to review our response relating to your request, please contact the Information Governance manager at [foi@homerton.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@homerton.nhs.uk), in the first instance. If following that, you still have any concerns, you may contact the Information Commissioner either by letter, FOI/EIR Complaints resolution, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SM9 5AF, or by email [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk) to take them further.

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Yours sincerely,

Mike Dunne  
Information Governance Manager